

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Subhashini Subramaniam

Appl. No.: 10/722,408

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For: Meta Directory Server Providing Users the
Ability to Customize Work-flows

Art Unit: 3623

Examiner: CHOI, PETER H

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Appeal Brief Under 37 CFR § 41.37

Mail Stop **Appeal Brief - Patents**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief ("Notification")
mailed 04/16/2010, Appellants submit this paper under 37 CFR § 41.37.

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As requested in the Notification, only the updated defective section is included in
this paper. In particular, an updated Summary of Claimed Subject Matter section, having
separate reference to each of the independent claims 1, 11, 21 and 31 with reference to
the specification by page and line number and to the drawings, is included in this paper.

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It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are
required, beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents
accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are
necessary to allow consideration of this paper, then such extensions of time are hereby
petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefore (including fees for
net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No.: 20-
0674.

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V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The present invention is directed to providing users the ability to customize work-flows. Figure 1 (reproduced below) of the subject application shows an example general environment in which the features of the invention can be implemented.

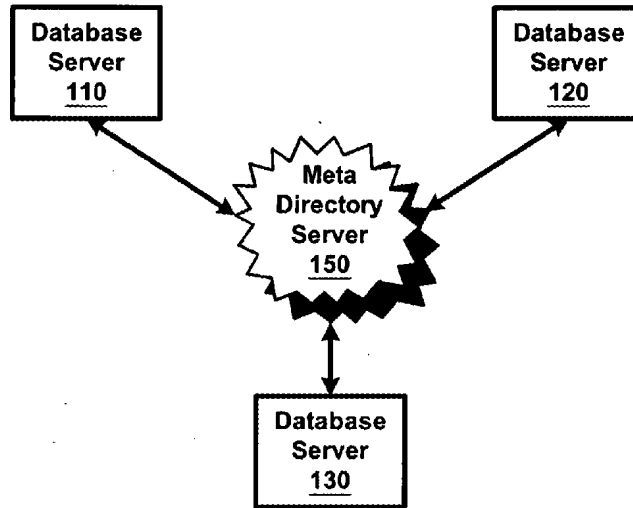


FIG. 1

Independent claim 1 relates to a method of enabling a user to extend a work flow (paragraph 006, Figure 2 and paragraph 0033) for synchronization/consolidation of data (paragraph 004, 006) between at least two data sources (paragraph 004, database servers 110 and 120 of Figure 1 and paragraph 0034). The work flow is recited as being for execution in a meta directory server (150 of Figure 1, paragraphs 004-006, 0031). The method is recited to contain:

providing, by a designer (paragraphs 009, 0078), a sequence of built-in tasks (paragraphs 006, steps 210-250 of Figure 2 and paragraphs 0033, 0035-0040) which together when executed implement said work flow for synchronization/consolidation of data between at least two data sources (paragraph 0033), a built-in task (steps 210, 225, 235, 240 of Figure 2) in said sequence of built-in tasks containing an extension point (paragraphs 008, 0045, 0050) at a point of interest in said work flow for users,

said work flow being designed for execution by multiple users as corresponding instances (paragraph 0046),

wherein each user is provided the ability to specify a corresponding custom task (paragraph 007, steps 260 of Figure 2 and paragraph 0040) associated with said extension

point without editing said work flow, the custom task specified by a user (paragraph 0046) containing corresponding program logic to provide a customization desired by the user (paragraph 0075),

5 said flow being designed to execute the specified desired custom task in the corresponding instance if specified by corresponding user at said extension point (paragraph 008, steps 320, 330, 340, 350 of Figure 3 and paragraphs 0047 and 0048);

receiving from said user data indicating a custom task (paragraph 007, steps 260 of Figure 2 and paragraph 0040) associated with said extension point, wherein said custom task is separate from said sequence of built-in tasks and contains a program logic specified by
10 said user (paragraph 0046) for the corresponding desired customization;

executing (paragraph 008, steps 320, 330, 340, 350 of Figure 3 and paragraphs 0047 and 0048) said custom task when said extension point is reached during execution of said built-in task in an instance of said work-flow for said user; and

continuing execution (paragraph 0027, steps 315, 320, 370, 380 of Figure 3 and
15 paragraphs 0047, 0049 and 0050) of said sequence of built-in tasks from said extension point in said built-in task after executing said custom task in said instance such that all of said sequence of built-in tasks are executed to complete synchronizing/consolidating data between said two data sources.

20 Thus, in accordance with claim 1, a designer first specifies extension points at corresponding points of interest in a workflow, and users may thereafter specify corresponding custom tasks at the extension points. Due to such a feature, no user needs to edit the workflow, but can specify corresponding custom tasks of interest at the extension points.

25 Dependent claim 3 recites that said custom task (paragraph 0010, CA tasks 460, 465 of Figure 4 and paragraph 0054) contains an another extension point. The method is recited to further contain receiving from said user data (paragraph 0010) indicating an another custom task (CA tasks 465, 470 of Figure 4 and paragraph 0054) to be executed when said
30 another extension point is reached during execution of said custom task.

Dependent claim 4 recites that the method further contains:

determining (paragraph 0011, Figure 7 line 760 and associated paragraph 0085) corresponding set of extension points available in each of said sequence of built-in tasks;

displaying (paragraph 0011, 900 of Figure 9 and paragraphs 0084 and 0085) each of said set of extension points (930 of Figure 9) associated with a corresponding one (919 of Figure 9) of said sequence of built-in tasks;

displaying (950 of Figure 9) said custom task and said another custom task; and

enabling (900 of Figure 9 and paragraphs 0086 and 0087) said user to specify said custom task associated with said extension point, and said another custom task associated with said another extension point.

Dependent claim 5 recites enabling said user to specify that said custom task is to be executed synchronously (900 of Figure 9 and paragraph 0088), wherein execution of said sequence of built-in tasks is suspended at said extension point during execution of said custom task, and wherein execution of said sequence of built-in tasks is resumed after completion of execution of said custom task (paragraphs 0012 and 0053) such that said custom task is executed in a synchronous manner.

Dependent claim 6 recites enabling said user to specify that said custom task is to be executed asynchronously (900 of Figure 9 and paragraph 0088), wherein said custom task is executed in parallel with execution of built-in task from said extension point (paragraphs 0012 and 0054) such that said custom task is executed in an asynchronous manner.

Dependent claim 8 recites that at least one of said two data sources comprises a relational database (paragraphs 0004 and 0005).

Independent claim 11 recites a computer readable medium (1040 of Figure 10, paragraph 0098) storing one or more sequences of instructions for causing a meta directory server (150 of Figure 1, paragraphs 004-006, 0031) to enable a user to extend a work flow (paragraph 006, Figure 2 and paragraph 0033) for synchronization/consolidation of data (paragraph 004, 006) between at least two data sources (paragraph 004, database servers 110 and 120 of Figure 1 and paragraph 0034). The execution of said one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors contained in said meta directory server causes said meta directory server to perform the actions of:

providing, by a designer (paragraphs 009, 0078), a sequence of built-in tasks (paragraphs 006, steps 210-250 of Figure 2 and paragraphs 0033, 0035-0040) which together when executed implement said work flow for synchronization/consolidation of data between at least two data sources (paragraph 0033), a built-in task (steps 210, 225, 235, 240 of Figure 2) in said sequence of built-in tasks containing an extension point (paragraphs 008, 0045, 0050) at a point of interest in said work flow for users,

said work flow being designed for execution by multiple users as corresponding instances (paragraph 0046),

wherein each user is provided the ability to specify a corresponding custom task (paragraph 007, steps 260 of Figure 2 and paragraph 0040) associated with said extension point without editing said work flow, the custom task specified by a user (paragraph 0046) containing corresponding program logic to provide a customization desired by the user (paragraph 0075),

said flow being designed to execute the specified desired custom task in the corresponding instance if specified by corresponding user at said extension point (paragraph 008, steps 320, 330, 340, 350 of Figure 3 and paragraphs 0047 and 0048);

receiving from said user data indicating a custom task (paragraph 007, steps 260 of Figure 2 and paragraph 0040) associated with said extension point, wherein said custom task is separate from said sequence of built-in tasks and contains a program logic specified by said user (paragraph 0046);

executing (paragraph 008, steps 320, 330, 340, 350 of Figure 3 and paragraphs 0047 and 0048) said custom task when said extension point is reached during execution of said built-in task in an instance of said work-flow for said user; and

continuing execution (paragraph 0027, steps 315, 320, 370, 380 of Figure 3 and paragraphs 0047, 0049 and 0050) of said sequence of built-in tasks from said extension point in said built-in task after executing said custom task in said instance such that all of said sequence of built-in tasks are executed to complete synchronizing/consolidating data between said two data sources.

Independent claim 21 recites a meta directory server (150 of Figure 1, paragraphs 004-006, 0031) enabling a user to extend a work flow (paragraph 006, Figure 2 and paragraph 0033) for synchronization/consolidation of data (paragraph 004, 006) between at

least two data sources (paragraph 004, database servers 110 and 120 of Figure 1 and paragraph 0034). The meta directory server is recited as containing:

means for providing, by a designer (paragraphs 009, 0078), a sequence of built-in tasks (paragraphs 006, steps 210-250 of Figure 2 and paragraphs 0033, 0035-0040) which together when executed implement said work flow for synchronization/consolidation of data between at least two data sources (paragraph 0033), a built-in task (steps 210, 225, 235, 240 of Figure 2) in said sequence of built-in tasks containing an extension point (paragraphs 008, 0045, 0050) at a point of interest in said work flow for users,

said work flow being designed for execution by multiple users as corresponding instances (paragraph 0046),

wherein each user is provided the ability to specify a corresponding custom task (paragraph 007, steps 260 of Figure 2 and paragraph 0040) associated with said extension point without editing said work flow, the custom task specified by a user (paragraph 0046) containing corresponding program logic to provide a customization desired by the user (paragraph 0075),

said flow being designed to execute the specified desired custom task in the corresponding instance if specified by corresponding user at said extension point (paragraph 008, steps 320, 330, 340, 350 of Figure 3 and paragraphs 0047 and 0048);

means for receiving from said user data indicating a custom task (paragraph 007, steps 260 of Figure 2 and paragraph 0040) associated with said extension point, wherein said custom task is separate from said sequence of built-in tasks and contains a program logic specified by said user (paragraph 0046) for the corresponding desired customization;

means for executing (paragraph 008, steps 320, 330, 340, 350 of Figure 3 and paragraphs 0047 and 0048) said custom task when said extension point is reached during execution of said built-in task; and

means for continuing execution (paragraph 0027, steps 315, 320, 370, 380 of Figure 3 and paragraphs 0047, 0049 and 0050) of said sequence of built-in tasks from said extension point in said built-in task after executing said custom task in said instance such that all of said sequence of built-in tasks are executed to complete synchronizing/consolidating data between said two data sources.

Independent claim 31 recites a meta directory server (150 of Figure 1, paragraphs 004-006, 0031) enabling a user to extend a work flow (paragraph 006, Figure 2 and

paragraph 0033) for synchronization/consolidation of data (paragraph 004, 006) between at least two data sources (paragraph 004, database servers 110 and 120 of Figure 1 and paragraph 0034). The meta directory server is recited as containing:

5 a task registry block (510 of Figure 5, paragraph 0059) storing data related to a sequence of built-in tasks (paragraphs 006, steps 210-250 of Figure 2 and paragraphs 0033, 0035-0040) which together when executed implement said work flow for synchronization/consolidation of data between at least two data sources (paragraph 0033), a built-in task (steps 210, 225, 235, 240 of Figure 2) in said sequence of built-in tasks containing an extension point (paragraphs 008, 0045, 0050) at a point of interest in said
10 work flow for users,

said work flow being designed for execution by multiple users as corresponding instances (paragraph 0046),

wherein each user is provided the ability to specify a corresponding custom task (paragraph 007, steps 260 of Figure 2 and paragraph 0040) associated with said extension
15 point without editing said work flow, the custom task specified by a user (paragraph 0046) containing corresponding program logic to provide a customization desired by the user (paragraph 0075),

said flow being designed to execute the specified desired custom task in the corresponding instance if specified by corresponding user at said extension point (paragraph
20 008, steps 320, 330, 340, 350 of Figure 3 and paragraphs 0047 and 0048);

a user interface module (530 of Figure 5 and paragraph 0058) receiving from said user, data indicating a custom task (paragraph 007, steps 260 of Figure 2 and paragraph 0040) associated with said extension point, wherein said custom task is separate from said
25 sequence of built-in tasks and contains a program logic specified by said user (paragraph 0046) for the corresponding desired customization; and

work-flow manager module (540 of Figure 5 and paragraphs 0065 and 0066) for executing (paragraph 008, steps 320, 330, 340, 350 of Figure 3 and paragraphs 0047 and 0048) said custom task when said extension point is reached during execution of said
30 built-in task, and in addition for continuing execution (paragraph 0027, steps 315, 320, 370, 380 of Figure 3 and paragraphs 0047, 0049 and 0050) of said sequence of built-in tasks from said extension point in said built-in task after executing said custom task in said instance such that all of said sequence of built-in tasks are executed to complete synchronizing/consolidating data between said two data sources.

Accordingly all noted defects are believed to be overcome and continuation of examination is respectfully requested. The Office is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at 443.552.7281 if it is believed that an interview might be useful for any reason.

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